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CMD. MASTER CHIEF REYNALDO TIONG

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF, JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO

Leaders must be

able to trust their

subordinates to follow

through on their

tasks and fulfill their

directed and unspoken

obligations.

crossing a bridge. The father was a bit scared so he asked his little boy, "Son, please hold my hand so that you don't fall into the river."

The little boy said, "No, Dad. You hold my hand."

"What's the difference?" asked the puzzled father.

"There's a big difference," replied his son. "If I hold your hand and something

your hand go. But if you hold my hand, I know for sure that no matter what happens, you will never let my hand go."

Inanyrelationship, the essence of trust should always be like a child trusting his father.

this Likewise, kind of trust is also a must-have quality

when building and maintaining successful leader-subordinate relationships.

Leaders must be able to rely on and trust their subordinates to follow through on their tasks and fulfill their directed and unspoken obligations. They need to trust that their subordinates understand their role and responsibilities, and that they will take care to maintain the welfare of the Troopers in their care and be united with their peers in support of their leader.

Troopers must be able to trust their leadership to have their best interests and the success of the mission at heart. They need to trust the instruction they are given and believe they will get the support and guidance they need to carry out their assigned tasks and responsibilities.

It is every leader's obligation, at every level, to foster an environment of trust.

Donald T. Phillips, in his book "Lincoln on Leadership" shares this

A little boy and his father were passage from a speech Abraham Lincoln gave when accepting his nomination for senator in Springfield, Ill. on June 16,

> "A house divided against itself cannot stand...Our cause must be entrusted to, and conducted by its own undoubted friends – whose hands are free, whose hearts are in the work – who do care for

The Joint Task Force Guantanamo happens to me, chances are that I may let mission is the "Safe, Legal, Humane,

and Transparent Care and Custody of Detainees." But as leaders, especially as enlisted leaders, cause taking care of the Troopers who are carrying out the mission and giving our full support to those officers who are ultimately held responsible for the

success or failure of the mission.

"Undoubted friends... whose hearts are in the work—who do care for the result": this is who we are supposed to be as leaders. We are to be the ones who are trusted.

We need to be trusted by those over us, those under us, and importantly but often neglected, we need to be able to trust and be trusted by our peers and

Without trust, we will be divided. Without trust leaders become selfseeking individuals who care not for the result, but only for their own gain or preservation. People who "snipe" the efforts of others, malign the work of their peers behind their backs, who misrepresent the motives of their directives - these people are untrustworthy.

Untrustworthy people, particularly

see COMMAND next page

Cover: Thursday's Thanksgiving festivities at Seaside Galley brought a taste of home to Troopers courtesy of U.S. Southern Command commander Gen. Douglas M. Fraser himself. -photo by Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class Kilho Park



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The WIRE is the official news magazine of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is produced by the JTF Public Affairs Office to inform and educate the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo through news, features, command guidance, sports and entertainment. The WIRE seeks to provide maximum disclosure with minimum delay with regard to security, accuracy, propriety and policy. This DoD news magazine is an authorized publication for the members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The WIRE are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is printed by Defense Logistics Agency Document Services with a circulation of 1,200.

NEWS FROM THE BAY

10K for breast cancer awareness

The U.S. Naval Hospital Junior Enlisted Association will host a nighttime glow-inthe-dark 10K run/walk for breast cancer awareness on Nov. 26, beginning at U.S. Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay on Sherman Avenue. There will be a \$10 registration fee per person. All participants must arrive by 6 p.m., and the run will begin at 7 p.m. All participants are required to have proper reflective gear. The first 25 people to register will receive a free gift. Donations will be accepted for pink glow-in-the-dark items.

For more information call 74795 or

Fit Factor track meet

To promote active lifestyles and healthy living, the Navy Child Youth Program is hosting a track meet at Nov. 26 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the track at Cooper Field for the youth of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. Kids will participate in several short trackand-field events.

Following the track meet, from 1–3 p.m., there will be pick-up hockey at the hockey rink. The turnout for the hockey will gauge the community's interest in a youth hockey

For more information, call 55346.

AMC flight deadlines

The deadlines for making reservations or cancellations for the Dec. 23 and Dec. 30 flights are Dec. 20 and Dec. 27, respectively. For more information, call 4850.

Treasures & Trivia 25 cent sale

Treasures & Trivia, the thrift store next to the Downtown Lyceum, is having a quarter sale. Everything in the store will be sold for 25 cents. The sale will be from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Sale excludes formal wear and Christmas items.

Bayview Friday night prime rib dinners

The Bayview Inn will be serving prime rib on select Friday nights in December. The nights will be Dec. 2, 9, and 16 to accommodate community and command events. The regular Saturday serving will resume Dec.

For more information call 75604.

Bayview holiday dinner and a movie

The Bayview Inn will be kicking off the holiday season with dinner and a movie Nov. 25 at the Bayview Patio 6–9 p.m. The movie will be "A Christmas Story" instead of the originally planned "Deck the Halls."

For more information call 75604.

NEX tree judging

The Navy Exchange Holiday Trees will be judged Nov. 26 at 4 p.m. in the NEX atrium for the most original, most holiday feel, and most "Guantanamo."

For more information call 74547.

Interview training

The Fleet and Family Support Center will host an interview training session on Wednesday, Nov. 30 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at FFSC building 2135. Participants will learn techniques to prepare for job interviews. For registration information, call

Calling All-Army females

The women's All-Army football team is still looking for players to take part in the Army vs. Navy football game on Friday, Dec. 10. If you would like to participate, email William.Monserrate@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil or Jerzibol@gmail.com.

Guantanamo holiday parade and concert

This year's parade will take place on Dec. 3 at 6 p.m. The parade line-up will start at 4:30 p.m. in the SCSI parking lot off Sherman Avenue. All entrants must be parked by 5:45 p.m. All who wish to participate must register by Nov. 28.

The parade is accepting walkers/ marchers, bicycles, golf carts, vehicles, and floats (vehicle and trailer). Safety is of the utmost importance and should be considered when designing themes.

Register at Morale Welfare and Recreation Admin. Bldg. 760.

Following the parade, a concert featuring Emerson Drive will begin at 9 p.m. at the Downtown Lyceum.

For more information, call 4882.

COMMAND cont.

leaders, breed mistrust in others. It results in low morale and, ultimately, in leadership.

I challenge every leader here to step up and put their heart into the work and care for the result, the result of well-disciplined, well-cared-for Troopers who enjoy good morale. Put aside your selfish desires and whatever grievances you have against your father's hands.

coworkers and care for the team.

Rebuild trust. Own your shortcomings; undisciplined behavior in those entrusted to make a resolution to change divisive speech our care because they see the lack of unity and behavior whether it is public or private. Stop looking out only for what you want, and care for the cause of caring for our Troopers. A house divided against itself cannot stand. Let us challenge ourselves to trust like a child who never fails to put his welfare, his confidence and his life into his

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Trooper to Trooper-

FIRST SERGEANT PETER HUNTER

474TH EXPEDITIONARY CIVIL ENGINEERING SQUADRON

You honorably serve our great nation in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard. The citizens of our country are grateful. You wear our uniforms with pride because you are in the public eye. While you are concerned about the appearance of the uniform you wear, do not forget you are the most valued asset. You need to protect and preserve this asset: you! In each day, there are 1,440 minutes. Schedule 30 of those minutes for daily exercise!

As a mentor to young Soldiers, Airmen and Sailors and as an advisor to officers and senior enlisted Troopers, I challenge all to partake in a daily regimen for improved physical conditioning. Serving in the military is oftentimes strenuous. Regular exercise is a critical part of staying healthy. This enables us to engage in and accomplish the arduous tasks which our profession requires. Also, the ability to cope with mental stress is enhanced by regular physical exercise.

Physical fitness is your level of muscular endurance, flexibility, muscular strength, cardiovascular endurance, and a lean body mass composition. In order to achieve a high level of physical fitness, we must remove ourselves from a sedentary lifestyle. Become more active! Approximately 24 percent of all Americans don't exercise at all! Do we wonder why chronic illnesses, such as heart disease, weight-related diabetes and hypertension are endemic?

You may ask what you can do to get started in an exercise program. If you have any medical concerns, always check with a physician before getting started. You already possess a level of physical fitness in order to serve in the military.

First, in order to motivate yourself, select a form of physical exercise you enjoy. This will enable you to maintain your exercise program. Here at Guantanamo Bay, you can participate in numerous physical activities: walking, jogging, bicycling, swimming, weight training, basketball and trail hiking, to name a few.

Second, incorporate your physical activities into your daily schedule. If weather becomes a factor, substitute another activity to fulfill your exercise program. Do not revert to a sedentary

Third, build variety into your fitness program. Design a program which includes several activities. For example, jog on Mondays and Wednesdays, lift weights on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and swim on Fridays. You can participate in group exercise programs as well.



Air Force First Sgt. Peter Hunter and Air Force Staff Sgt. Crystal Toyne prepare for the day's tasks at the Base Emergency Engineering Force (BEEF). –photo courtesy Tech. Sgt. Kevin Logue, 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron

Fourth, be consistent and persistent in your participation in a physical fitness routine. Increased strength and flexibility are direct results of regular physical activity.

As you engage in a regular physical fitness program, remember to start slowly. Do not exceed your capabilities. I realize you are determined to succeed. However, increase your endurance, strength, and flexibility at a steady pace to avoid injury. This is a long distance, lifelong race. A fast start does not mean you will be the first to cross the finish line. Your fitness level will improve if you maintain your discipline.

see TROOPER next page



SHOPSEC

The weeks after Thanksgiving are a time when everyone is rushing to get their holiday shopping done. Be careful when entering credit card information online, and always make sure a website is legitimate. Avoid "phishing" scams by deleting emails which may look like they are from real websites, but ask you for financial or personal information. Only use shopping sites which offer buyer protection. Take extra care when shopping "Cyber Monday," the online answer to in-store Black Friday sales. Identity theft and credit fraud always spike this time of year. Be safe and enjoy the holiday season. USE OPSEC!



Above: Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Robert Eller wins second place at the MWR Turkey Shoot-Out Nov. 20. Right: Shooters find their targets at the paintball range. -photo by Army Sgt. Saul Rosa

By Army Sgt. Saul Rosa

They met just shortly after noon; they only had one load of rounds to prove their worth. Every shot counted in this match-up. In the end only one could claim top marksman in the Paintball Turkey Shoot-Out.

Morale Welfare and Recreation held a Paintball Turkey Shoot-Out Nov. 20 at the paintball range. The shoot-out was point based and tested paintball gunners' accuracy. To make the playing field even, the gunners were required to use the same Spyder paintball gun and Valker Redemption paintballs instead of their own.

"We wanted to make it fair; some people have really high-end guns that shoot much straighter because they use more pressure," said

Tim Baugh, the MWR Outdoor Recreation Director. "So, it just makes it fair if everyone uses the same gun, the same paint, and the same masks."

The targets, an assortment of outdated recreation equipment, were valued at either one or two

points depending on the difficulty of hitting it. This allowed for different approaches of success and strategies when shooting at the

"Since I couldn't use my own equipment, I shot my first few rounds to gauge the gun," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Robert Eller. "Then I went to the biggest target and just unloaded on

When all shooters were finished, Eller,

TRAAPFR cont. -

Improving your physical fitness level life journey toward physical fitness. Doing does not guarantee you will live to the age of 100. However, the quality of your life as you are alive. Eat healthy foods and obtain proper rest as you embark on your

so will add to your level of success.

I challenge all Joint Task Force will be better through improved fitness. Guantanamo Troopers to incorporate It should not be attained merely to pass a physical fitness into their lifestyle. test. Fitness should be a way of life as long Remember, with 1,440 minutes in a day, use 30 minutes to exercise!

a master-at-arms, won second place and an MWR gift bag.

Beyond the competitive side, the Turkey Shoot-Out offered Troopers an opportunity to come out and have a good time with the community and be role models to the younger

"We encourage the younger kids to come out," said Eller. "Safety is paramount. I come out every weekend. It's my hobby and I've been playing since I was young."

Paintball enthusiasts like Eller hope that events like the turkey shoot-out will draw in new people to the sport.

"What I hope is that exposes people to paintball so more will come out and play," said Eller. "It's cheaper here then playing in the States and that's great."

With paintball events held each month, competitors can be sure to hit their targets again.

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TROOPER & FOCUS

By Army Sgt. Saul Rosa

If you asked Army Sgt. Heather Blackwell the what she does, she would answer that she Leadership simply does her job. But as a recently promoted Course, and I sergeant in the Joint Trooper Clinic, her job got promoted." encompasses a lot.

"If they are in the Joint Task Force, I do role in the office their medevac," said Blackwell.

A medical evacuation is not always an her emergency situation, but arranged when a commissioned patient needs services off the island. Blackwell is responsible for routine flights as well as finding doctors and hospitals outside of Guantanamo Bay which can provide a medical service the hospital on base cannot. She is also clinic's NCOIC. "She's one responsible for setting up appointments for of those people that any time Troopers.

"It's a lot of phone calls, e-mails, and right and you don't want to paperwork," said Blackwell.

When Blackwell arrived, she learned different medevac procedures and quickly adapted to her new role in the clinic. She persevered and has improved the system in the process by updating old and new files and time she arrived to Guantanamo expanding the contacts database.

"Now there's a hard copy of everything in October. As a woman in do and it's universal," said Blackwell. "Everybody has a folder and everybody has a her advice to fellow female digital copy."

Blackwell came to the island in January 2011 as an E-4 with a list of goals to accomplish what you get, and don't let before leaving Guantanamo Bay.

"I received my volunteer award while I was here," said Blackwell. "I went to school a better feeling knowing you and made the commandant's list. I went to worked for it."

Warrior

Blackwell's has impressed officer in charge, Army Staff Sgt. Darol Burdge.

"She's outstanding, honestly," said Burdge, the you need something done worry about it, you ask her."

Prior to making E-5, had been Blackwell promotable for over a year. She focused on advancing from the Bay, and accomplished her goal Time in service: 4 years Troopers.

"Make sure you work for someone just hand it to you," said Blackwell. "I promise, it's



The boss says: "She does her job and she does it well."

Advice to junior Troopers: "Don't give up, espe-

the military, Blackwell offers Hobbies: Fishing, tanning, boating

cially on promotion. That's really big."

What is the best part of a tropical Thanksgiving?



"The water. I plan to spend Thanksgiving taking photos of the reefs."

Spc. Bobby Allen



"The food. Lt. Col. Shields is hosting a J1 potluck."

Logistics Spc. 2nd Class **Casey Schedule**



"The food and the tighter camaraderie we will all have that day."



"Diving! I just got qualified Sunday. I will be spending the holiday at Phillips Dive

Fire Controlman 2nd Class Army Sgt. Xenia Luna Jorge Carpio

BOOTS ON THE GROUND

THE WIRE | PAGE 6 TROOPER FOCUS I

Mail maximizes morale Send the holiday joy home - now

By Army 1st Lt. Amelia Thatcher

It's here. It's here! It's finally here!

After weeks of anticipation, a package from home finally arrives. The card is full of old news and the cookies are a little crushed, but it's all in Mom's handwriting.

"We've had quite a few holiday boxes

for Troopers

By Sgt. 1st Class Jerome Grant

Thank heavens!

Free coffee available

Turner, who counts postal officer among his additional duties, has already noticed an uptick in the homey goodies coming in with the usual pile of letters. His section is responsible for distributing mail to Soldiers of the 525th MPs.

Despite email's wide availability, either at

already," said Army 2nd Lt. Mercie Turner, the office, Internet cafe or SCSI hookup, there 525th Military Police Battalion S1 officer in is just no electronic substitute for holding a loved one's words in one's hands.

> "You can tell someone took the time to get a card, write a letter, get a stamp, and take it to the post office," said Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeffrey Powell. "It's a keepsake. You can't keep email unless you print it out."

Powell, an information systems technician for I6, is stocked up on Guantanamo Bay T-shirts and mugs to send home. He plans on sending his family's presents in the next few days to get them home in time for Christmas.

However, other families' holidays won't have to wait.

"People are buying stuff on Amazon and sending it directly," Turner said.

Unless it's a Guantanamo Bay-unique banana rat plush toy or a Radio GTMO T-shirt, it might be a good idea to take advantage of holiday discounts and free shipping from an online retailer so close to Dec. 25. But no matter which direction the mail is moving. keep writing letters and have your family do the same.

"Mail is the number one morale enhancer in a deployed environment," said Army Master Sgt. James Johnson. "It's often the only way you can get anything from home."

Johnson, who is the noncommissioned officer in charge for both the Joint Task Force Guantanamo I1 section and Camp America postal operations, encourages everyone sending gifts back home to do so as soon as possible.

"We've started tracking how much mail we get," he said. "We expect a 40 to 60 percent increase in volume for Nov. 15 through Jan 15., which is the holiday rush."

Either way, Johnson added, figure about two extra weeks into the equation.

"Letters and first class are the first thing on the truck," he said. "Registered is the safest, and you can track it, but it's slower. Priority is the best way to send everything to your loved ones for the holiday."

Priority mail boxes and envelopes are available in the Camp America and naval station post offices. The Camp America location takes cash only, and customs forms are required to mail most items from Guantanamo Bay to the States. Johnson recommends sending gifts to the U.S. no later than Dec. 5, and earlier for all other international locations.

And when the mail does finally arrive, whether it be a week early or a month late, you'll feel just like a little kid on Christmas.

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FOR CAMP & SHEAK ROOM

The Joint Task Force Guantanamo Chaplain Section has a new ministry brewing through the support of Holy Joe's Cafe and Green Mountain Coffee. Holy Joe's Cafe is a nonprofit organization based out of the First Congregational Church in Wallingford, Conn., which supplies free Keurig coffee makers and K-cups to deployed service members in all theaters of operation.

"I first benefited from Holy Joe's while deployed in Fallujah, Iraq with the Seabees in 2007-2008," said Navy Chaplain Capt. Bradley Thom, JTF Guantanamo chaplain.

Thom said he was reintroduced to the organization by a chance phone call routed to his Pentagon office as he was preparing for his assignment to JTF Guantanamo.

In talking with Thomas Jastermsky, founder of Holy Joe's Cafe, Thom mentioned his past experience and his upcoming assignment to Guantanamo. Even before Thom arrived in October, four pallets of Green Mountain Coffee, equal to about 20,000 cups, had at the Iguana Cafe on Chapel Hill, on joes.html.

the naval station side of Guantanamo Bay. The first Holy Joe's Cafe appeared in the ITF chaplains' office earlier this month. Anyone can stop in during the office hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday for a free cup of coffee and some light conversation to take the edge off the day.

As new Keurig Elite coffee makers began arriving at JTF Guantanamo, Holy Joe's Cafe coffee became more widely available. Just last week, the next two Holy Joe's Cafes began offering free coffee at Camps 5 and 6 in the main buildings' break areas.

"Chaps is a good man," said a member of the guard force. "The Chaps and these guys here, they take really good care of us."

Navy Chaplain Lt. Cmdr. Marc Mc-Doweoll, Petty Officer 2nd Class Vanessa Rocha, and Petty Officer 3rd Class Dana Pratt, all from the JTF Chaplains' office, delivered the first of the guard force coffee makers and several boxes of coffee on Monday afternoon.

"I haven't been on any ships with free coffee," another guard exclaimed. "I love free coffee!"

For more information on Holy Joe's been received by Air Force Chaplain Cafe, visit www.holyjoescafe.org or Lt. Col. Gary Bertsch and were in use hwww.deansbeans.com/coffee/holy-



FEATURE |

THE WIRE | PAGE 8

U.S. Southern Command Gen. Douglas M. Fraser shares Thanksgiving dinner with Joint Task Force Guantanamo Trooper of the Quarter Petty Officer 1st Class Alexander Bates. Bates is a master-at-arms in the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion. FEATURE THE WIRE | PAGE 9



By Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class Louis Batchelor

Gen. Douglas M. Fraser, commander of U.S. Southern Command, played host to service members and their families during Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Thanksgiving celebration Thursday.

Fraser and his family served Thanksgiving dinner as a way to show their appreciation to Troopers currently deployed to JTF Guantanamo. Several Troopers also had the honor of eating their Thanksgiving meal with the general, including Petty Officer 1st Class Marcus Thomas, a member of the Joint Task Force's Legal Services Department.

"I think the general coming down here to show his support means a lot," said Thomas. "He and his family could have spent their Thanksgiving anywhere, but their decision to come here has gone a long way for Trooper morale."

Fraser understands the importance of sustaining Troopers' well-being, and recognizes that some service members may find the holiday season difficult due to being separated from their families. He said his family's decision to have Thanksgiving at JTF Guantanamo was to encourage the bonds Troopers have with each other, and to strengthen the bonds service members have with their families.

"Thanksgiving is an important day to be with family," Fraser said. "Most of the men and women here unfortunately do not have that luxury this holiday season. We wanted to be with these service members to honor their contributions and their family's contributions to the military service."

Thomas said he appreciates General Fraser and his family coming to JTF Guantanamo to show their support.

"I think the general's visit symbolizes the support, not only that Joint Task Force has from its seniors, but the support Troopers have from their families as well," Thomas said. "We are separated from them physically, but they are with us in our hearts."

Fraser's visit was part of the Guantanamo Bay community's seasonal celebration this weekend, which includes Thursday's Turkey Trot 10K run and a tree lighting ceremony, to be held in the Navy Exchange atrium tonight.



By Sgt. 1st Class Jerome Grant

If your military service is coming to a close because of retirement, retention boards, or the end of your orders, you may want to start looking toward your future plans now. The Fleet and Family Services Transition Assistance Center and Joint Task Force One Stop can help.

Helping Troopers find a new career isn't the only thing the Transition Assistance Center does.

"I'm here to help with a variety of things," said April Holland, a work and family life specialist at the Fleet and Family Support Center, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

In addition to helping people search for government employment on USA Jobs and craft private industry resumes, Holland also helps Troopers build their college resumes and graduate school applications.

The help doesn't end once applications and resumes start rolling out to various employers.

"If a potential employer needs documents and a troop needs things scanned, we can do that," Holland said. "And if a person needs to contact a potential employer by phone in the States, we can help with that too."

Troops looking to transition out of the military should start at least 12 months before their end of service; earlier if possible so they can get familiar with all the resources available. However, it's never too late to start gathering information.

"We've had people come in and load up on info the day before they get on the plane to leave," Holland said.

To get a head start on information gathering and all that Transition Services has to offer, Troopers and their dependents can go to the main Department of Defense site for transition services at www.turbotap. org. Here, troops and their families can take advantage of free webinars on resume writing, preparing for job interviews, obtaining federal jobs, and even how to use social media in finding a job.

Speak with a career counselor or pick up informational materials at the Fleet and Family Services Center on the Naval Station side, Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Fridays from 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Additionally, the Joint Task Force One Stop offers transition services assistance every Thursday from 12-4 p.m. in building 1451. For specific questions regarding these and other services, call JTF One Stop at 8127 or FFSC at 4079/4141.



Breaking the bank

Keep that holiday budget under control

By Army 1st Lt. Amelia Thatcher

It's Friday morning after Thanksgiving and the turkey is barely cold in the fridge, and half the town has already started lining up outside big-box stores in search of a great deal on flat-screen televisions. Internet retailers, too, are poised for massive sales traffic in the days between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

With the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station Navy Exchange opened at 6 a.m. as well, the scenery should look similar to stores back home.

"Lines go to the parking lot," said NEX manager Mark Good. "It's like Customer Appreciation Day. We have a 400 to 500 percent sales increase just that morning."

However, young or cash-strapped Troopers should take note: it's not all about the stuff.

"There is always a danger when the holidays come," said Navy Lt. Tung Tran, a chaplain at the naval station main chapel. "People want to give material gifts. But we are gifts to one another."

Fleet and Family Services advises Troopers to spend with caution. While Troopers deployed here won't have a houseful of family

members to feed and entertain, they must factor in things like food and beverages for the office party and the cost of shipping gifts

According to Military One Source, the average American spends more than \$1,000 during the holiday season, and puts much of that on a credit card. Always try to avoid starting the new year with credit

Instead of running up large bills all at once, make a list of people you'd like to buy for and set a limit. And if you don't make it to the Black Friday NEX sales, keep in mind there will be more throughout the month of December.

"This is the Thanksgiving season," Tran said. "All of us have something to be thankful for and have someone to thank."

Either way, your loved ones will be grateful for the toy iguana you send home not because it's cute and cuddly, but because you're the one who took time to send it.

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food yourself. - Don't forget to factor traveling expenses into your holiday budget.

– Make a list of everyone

vou want to buy a gift for,

instead of supplying all the

and set a dollar limit on

how much to spend.

- Host a potluck meal

-Cut back on airfare by driving or visiting family members soon after the holidays, as opposed to buying expensive lastminute tickets.

- Reuse last year's decorations.
- Consider a family "secret Santa" instead of having each person buy everyone gifts.
- Consider homemade presents or give the gift of time. For example, promise to help an elderly relative with chores twice a month throughout the coming year.

For more tips, go to www. militaryonesource.com



I FEATURE

Afghans partner with U.S. chaplains

By Sgt. 1st Class Stephanie L. Carl

Army.mil

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -Religious cultural advisors (RCAs) from the Afghan Air Force and the Afghan National Army met with U.S. Army religious support teams from the 159th Combat Aviation Brigade at Kandahar Airfield Nov. 15 to further expand an evolving partnership.

Chaplains have been a part of the U.S. Army for 236 years, explained Maj. Brian Curry, the brigade chaplain for the 159th CAB, which is partnered with the Kandahar Air Wing of the Afghan Air Force. In the U.S. Army, chaplains help Soldiers to keep their faith and morale, similarly to their Afghan partners.

There have been many miscommunications about what American Soldiers do, said Afghan Lt. Col. Sayed Balkishah, the religious and cultural advisor for the Kandahar Air Wing.

"We have three main missions," Curry said of the chaplains. "We nurture the living, care for the wounded, and honor the dead."

To demonstrate how the chaplains nurture the living, Curry and his team showed the Afghan RCAs a coffee shop that was built and is operated by the religious support teams. The shop is run primarily off of donations, many of which come from schools and churches in the United States. It provides a place for Soldiers to take a break from their work, watch movies, read books, play games, or use computers or phones to talk to their families in the United States.

"This is very good for the Soldiers' brains," said ANA RCA Col. Khalilullah as he looked around the computer room in the coffee shop. "This makes morale high."

The RCAs also run a literacy program and a language program to teach their Soldiers how to read and write, and how to speak English. More than 200 Afghan soldiers participated in the last iteration of the training.

"The Quran tells us that education is important, and so we try to teach our soldiers," said Balkishah.

Phase I ERB results available

to sailors

ON THE DECK

From the Chief of Naval Personnel

Naval Personnel Command

WASHINGTON - Sailors considered by Phase I of the Enlisted Retention Board may now view their retention status on BUPERS Online, according to NAVADMIN 354/11.

The Phase I ERB reviewed the records of ERB-eligible E-4 and E-5 Sailors from 31 overmanned ratings. The board was charged with reviewing each candidate's official military personnel file and any correspondence submitted by the member to identify the best qualified Sailors to receive the finite number of retention quotas available in a fair and transparent manner.

Sailors considered by the board are classified in one of three categories in BOL.

S- Selected for retention

N- Not selected for retention

C- Selected for rating conversion.

ERB Phase II, for E6-E8 Sailors, adjourned Oct 27. Phase II results will be reviewed by BUPERS for conversion opportunities prior to release. Commanders will notify ERB Phase II Sailors in the same manner as Phase I.

Sailors not selected for retention will have access to the Navy's transition assistance management program and other benefits for members who are involuntary separated. This assistance will be proactive, comprehensive, tailored and supported by every level of the chain of command.

"If you've served in the Navy, you've been a good military team member, and we want to give you and your families the best possible transition benefits," said Rear Adm. Martha Herb, director of Personal Readiness and Community Support.

"If you are not selected to stay in the Navy, you can succeed on the outside with your proven military values, education, training, and experience," she said. "The transition tools we're providing for separating Sailors will help you hit the ground running and get off to a good start."

Sailors separating due to the ERB will be eligible for targeted ourreach assistance from various transition service providers. Additionally, the following Web-based resources are available:

Navy chaplain support: http://chaplaincare.navy.mil Military One Source: http://www.militaryonesource.com

Longest serving Airman calls it a career



By Tech Sgt. Richard Williams

Air Force Public Affairs Agency

WASHINGTON – As the sun sets on the career of Maj. Gen. Alfred K. Flowers, he looks back with a sense of accomplishment.

Flowers, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management and Comptroller, is set to retire from the Air Force on Jan. 1, 2012.

With 46 years of service to his country, Flowers is the longest serving Airman and currently the longest serving Air Force officer who began their service since the creation of the U.S. Air Force in 1947.

"When you start at age 17, you can get a lot done by the time you are 60," Flowers said.

A Kinston, N.C., native, Flowers was raised by his grandparents, who were sharecroppers. He credits humble beginnings as the foundation that carried him to where he is today.

"Being raised by grandparents who instilled the morals, the values, the integrity of doing the right thing and treating people the way you want to be treated has been important," he said. "I credit a lot of my makeup, morals and ethical values and attitudes to them."

These values guided Flowers to perform his best in school and propelled him to graduate high school at 17. He followed the model of a cousin who had joined the Army a few years earlier and was doing well. He asked his grandmother's permission to join the Air Force in 1965.

Upon completion of basic military training, Flowers received a direct to duty assignment as a supply warehouseman at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., which he recalls was a completely different environment from where he grew up.

After spending two years at Grand Forks Air Force Base, Flowers was retrained into air transportation and received one of his most difficult assignments of his career - casualty collection at Da Nang Air Base, Vietnam, in 1968.

"I knew that there was a war going on and it was a dangerous place,"

In Vietnam, Flowers' primary mission was to haul wounded and deceased soldiers out of the jungle at night.

"It was a job that had to be done but one that was very difficult," Flowers said. "Those young Soldiers and Marines deserved all the dignity and respect we could give."

There were many mentors who helped mold Flowers' career and he recalls his time at the 374th Tactical Fighter Squadron Moody AFB, Ga., and Headquarters Tactical Air Command, Langley AFB, Va., as assignments where his leadership helped unlock his potential as an officer.

Through the selfless leadership of others, Flowers said he was allowed to try and succeed or fail based on the support of others around him. This is something he has tried to pass on to enlisted and officers alike throughout the years.

One important piece to a successful mission, according to Flowers, is everyone working together as a team. He said at times he felt a distinct advantage having spent 13 years as an enlisted Airman; it allowed him to mesh officer and enlisted capabilities.

"The thing that you can never forget as an officer is if you are going to be successful, the enlisted community and all of those around you are what make you successful," Flowers said. "None of us are good enough to make ourselves successful, and I never forgot where I came

IN THE FIGHT

The girls are back in town: FET resets

By Cpl. Katherine Keleher

II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward)

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – A surge of over 40 Marines with the Female Engagement Team came to Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, where they were able to kick up their boots and talk about their experiences in Afghanistan since they began their another about lessons learned and come up deployment.

During their time on Camp Leatherneck FET received reset training, which the unit conducts every 45 days. In their reset training classes the Marines covered topics such as Rules of Engagement, escalation of force and basic lessons learned on relationship building with the local Afghan populace.

"It gives us an opportunity to re-group and re-organize our missions," said Sgt. Jessica Lugo, the FET 6 team leader in Sangin district, who grew up in Los Angeles. "A lot of things can happen in 45 days. When we come back (here) we can do those lessons learned, recap, learn anything and revise anything that we might need to execute later on in the future."

The mission of FET is to reach out to and interact with Afghan women and their children. Until FET was established, women and children were not heard from because of cultural restrictions. Afghan women past the age

of puberty are not permitted to talk to men.

Since FET, made up of nearly two dozen two- to three-member female teams of Marines and Sailors serving as hospitalwomen, were stood up nearly two years ago, they have been able to build relationships with Afghan women within their communities.

A main priority of the FET team members during reset training is to talk among one with new ideas on how to approach women, different ways to get word out in the villages about upcoming meetings, or even different ways to possibly get local Afghans to understand the importance of sending their children

It is nice to hear about the progress being made in other districts such as Marjah and what they are doing, so when it comes time when teams such as the ones in Sangin are ready to do something new, they already have an idea about what should and should not work, emphasized Lugo, who is a military policewoman

Armed with lessons learned during reset training and the successes of previous FETs, current team members said they are looking forward to accomplishing their missions and goals within the communities of Helmand province in the upcoming months.

COAST TO COAST USCG vessels rescue commercial fishers off Florida

By 7th District Coast Guard Public Affairs

United States Coast Guard

KEY WEST, Fla. - Coast Guard planes, helicopters, cutters and small boat crews responded to three boats taking on water in the vicinity of Key West, Fla., Saturday.

Coast Guard watchstanders at Sector Key West were notified at 5:39 p.m. Nov. 19 of a 43-foot commercial fishing vessel Deep, taking on water with two people 34 miles west of Key West. The Coast Guard issued an Urgent Marine Information Broadcast, diverted Coast Guard Cutter Nantucket, and launched a Station Key West 45-foot Response Boat Medium and a Coast Guard Air Station Miami HH-65 Dolphin rescue helicopter crew.

Nantucket crewmembers arrived on scene

and discovered one person sitting on the hull of the over turned vessel and the other person in the life raft. The two people were rescued by Nantucket crewmembers. No medical concerns were noted.

At 7:44 p.m. the same evening, Sector Key West watchstanders were notified of a 73-foot commercial fishing vessel taking on water 50 miles northwest of Key West. The Coast Guard issued an Urgent Marine Information Broadcast, diverted cutter Nantucket and launched an Air Station Miami HC-144 fixed wing aircraft crew. A "good Samaritan" aboard the commercial fishing vessel Southern Grace also responded.

The vessel partially sunk, causing the three people aboard to abandon ship and board a life raft. The life raft capsized and the three people entered the water. Two of the three

people were rescued by Nantucket crewmembers. One person was rescued by Southern Grace. One of three people rescued sustained minor injuries.

Coast Guard Cutter Ocracoke diverted and monitored the situation until commercial salvage assistance arrived.

"Coast Guard patrol boats like the cutter Nantucket and Ocracoke deliver the Coast Guard's unique blend of military capability, law enforcement authority and lifesaving expertise wherever needed along the Coast," said Cmdr. Gary Tomasulo, Deputy Commander, Sector Key West. "I am proud of our highly trained and proficient crews."

Coast Guard Cutters Nantucket and Cutter Ocracoke are 110-foot Island-class Patrol Boats homeported in St. Petersburg, Fla.

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How will failure of 'super committee' affect the military?

By Leo Shane III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON – Troops could see fewer military jobs, less dwell time, more outdated equipment and plenty of frustration for military planners for years to come, now that congressional efforts to trim the federal deficit have failed.

For the last three months, members of the bipartisan committee on deficit reduction – the so-called "supercommittee" – have been working on plans to cut \$1.2 trillion in federal spending over the next 10 years.

But on Monday, committee members said they could not reach a deal, disbanding the effort without offering any plan.

In a statement, co-chairs Rep. Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas, and Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., said that "despite our inability to bridge the committee's significant differences, we end this process united in our belief that the nation's fiscal crisis must be addressed and that we cannot leave it for the next generation to solve. We remain hopeful that Congress can build on this committee's work and can find a way to tackle this issue in a way that works for the American people and our economy."

Here's what troops need to know about this budget battle:

What happened this week?

The supercommittee had until this week to approve a plan, but fighting over whether tax hikes or other new revenue would be included in the proposal ultimately derailed the work.

Under terms approved by lawmakers in August, since the supercommittee could not reach a deal, \$1.2 trillion in other federal spending curbs will automatically go into effect.

Half of that sequestration amount will come from defense programs, and the other half will be spread over nonsecurity programs (although Social Security and Medicaid would be protected). The cuts would go into effect starting in 2013.

Should the military be worried?

Administration officials earlier this year promised \$450 billion in defense cuts over the next decade. Pentagon leaders for months have been saying they can handle that funding reduction with minimal risk, and that the military must be part of the solution to the country's budget crisis.

The \$600 billion in automatic cuts would be on top of that promised \$450 billion. For months, top military leaders have warned that slashing more than \$1 trillion in defense money over the next decade could cripple the

armed force

"It's a ship without sailors," Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said at a Pentagon press conference earlier this month. "It's a brigade without bullets. It's an air wing without enough trained pilots. It's a paper tiger, an Army of barracks, buildings and bombs without enough trained soldiers able to accomplish the mission."

In testimony before Congress this month, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz said that "Sweeping cuts would slash our investment accounts, raid our operations and maintenance accounts ... and inflict real damage to the effectiveness and well-being of our airmen and their families. Ultimately, such a scenario gravely undermines our ability to protect the nation."

Lawmakers are considering a total defense budget of roughly \$680 billion for fiscal 2012. With the two sets of cuts, Pentagon planners would be facing at least \$100 billion less annually, almost a 15 percent cut in defense spending.

How will those cuts affect me?

Pentagon officials have not outlined specifics of what will be cut, saying they'll make those decisions public when the fiscal 2013 budget plans are announced in February.

However, service chiefs have given lawmakers hints of what to expect during recent hearings before Congress.

End strength and equipment replacement would face drastic cutbacks. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno said National Guard response to U.S. natural disasters would likely be curtailed, and fewer personnel could mean longer deployments for the troops left serving.

Operations like the U.S. involvement in Libya, the response to the Japanese earthquake and humanitarian missions across the globe would be impossible without that money, according to Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert. Overseas bases in Europe and the Pacific could be shrunk or closed.

White House officials have already publicly discussed changes to military retirement and new Tricare fees for veterans, both moves that could save hundreds of millions.

No one so far has discussed cutting military pay, but troops have seen cost-of-living increases of less than 2 percent in their base pay each of the last two years.

Civilian defense workers remain under a pay freeze as part of cost-cutting moves announced late last year.

Can lawmakers just reverse those automatic cuts?

Some are trying, but President Obama said he will veto any attempt to do so, defying Republican lawmakers who arguue the automatic cuts in defense spending would jeopardize national security. McKeon said he will introduce legislation repealing the \$600 billion in defense cuts in the next few days.

But Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has vowed to block those efforts, telling reporters last week that piling all of the cuts onto nondefense spending would be unfair and unrealistic.

None of the automatic cuts would go into effect until 2013, so lawmakers would in theory have all of next year to negotiate alternative cuts or tax increases to replace those budget reductions

Is this the only budget fight to worry about?

No, Congress still hasn't approved the defense budget for fiscal 2012, which began Oct. 1. Last week, lawmakers passed another extension of a continuing resolution keeping the federal government running until Dec. 16.

China decries latest sanction against Iran

Voice of America News Service

WASHINGTON – China is criticizing the West for imposing new sanctions on Iran over its controversial nuclear program.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Weimin told reporters in Beijing Wednesday the fresh sanctions will make the situation more complicated and could hurt the chances for peace and stability.

China's condemnation of Western sanctions follows similar statements from Russia's foreign ministry. Moscow Tuesday called the sanctions "unacceptable and contradictory to international law."

The U.S., Canada and Britain each fabrications announced new steps Monday to increase is peaceful.

economic pressure against Iran in response to international concerns Tehran is developing nuclear weapons.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast on Tuesday called the new sanctions "propaganda and psychological warfare." He predicted they would prove ineffective, saying Iran's trade and economic ties with the U.S. and Britain are small anyway.

The International Atomic Energy Agency released a report earlier this month citing intelligence about Iranian efforts to develop the technology needed to build nuclear weapons. Iran has said the report is based on fabrications and insists its nuclear program is peaceful.



Fitness options for all schedules

There is always time to work out

Physical readiness is a key element in Joint Task Force Guantanamo's unique mission. Troopers must adapt to the ever-evolving undertakings and activities surrounding our day-to-day lives.

However, sometimes it can be difficult to fit physical training into our busy schedules. Troopers sometimes forgo gym activities altogether, opting to find other alternatives to winding down from a long day's work.

Jen Norton, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's Resident Fitness Director, and her team of certified fitness experts work hard to ensure Troopers have a volume of fitness options available, no matter what their current schedule dictates.

"There is always time to exercise," Norton said. "We have a lot of fitness opportunities here. We have a variety of classes available to troopers and their families, ranging from cycling and kickboxing to yoga and total body conditioning. If that doesn't fit your schedule, something as little as walking instead of catching the bus is a benefit."

Tanya Henigman, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's Lead Fitness Coordinator, agrees. Henigman's major focus for Guantanamo Bay is fitness activities and awareness. She acts as Norton's right hand, coordinating multiple fitness events, fun runs, sports schedules, classes and more for Guantanamo Bay's Troopers and families.

"According to the ACSM (American College of Sports Medicine) to obtain a training effect from a cardio vascular workout, you only need to participate in a cardio workout program three times per week, 20 minutes consistently," said Henigman. "To gain a muscular affect you need to participate in a strength building program twice a week. Even if you do not have the time to come to the gym and train, creating a 20-minute workout routine and doing it while you watch TV will do the trick. Troopers cannot tell me they don't find the time to watch TV."

Norton and Henigman both understand the importance of balancing professional schedules with off duty activities. They implore all service members to utilize Morale Welfare and Recreation facilities and classes whenever possible.

G.J. Denich Gym Hours of Operation Mon.–Fri. 24 hours Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m.–9 p.m. Contact: 77262 Marine Hill Gym Hours of Operation Mon.–Fri. 5–2 a.m. Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m.–9 p.m. Contact: 2285

Is it your week to run PT? Command-organized physical training may be conducted at Denich Gym. Reservations must be made in advance at the front desk.

"If a Trooper can't find the time to work out one hour, three times a week, he or she needs to examine their lifestyle and determine what is important," Henigman said. "Besides, a Trooper's well-being and career depends on staying mission ready."

Henigman challenges Troopers to think about the future. She said most people move on to their post-military life after one or two tours. She wants people to understand that whether they decide to make a change in their habits for the military or not, the one thing people always have to face is themselves. According to her, that should be enough motivation by itself.

"It is up to you to make the positive change in your life," Henigman said. "What do you want to look like in 20 years?"

For more information on upcoming fitness events, sports schedules and activities, or to set up an appointment with a personal fitness trainer, contact the MWR Fitness Desk at extension 2113.

Value of the Week: Respect

Treat people as they should be treated. Treat others with dignity and respect while expecting others to do the same. Respect is what allows us to appreciate the best in other people. Respect is trusting that all people have done their jobs and fulfilled their duty. Self-respect, which is just as important as respecting others and their work, results from knowing you have put forth your own best effort.

Joint Task Force Guantanamo is one team and each of us has something to contribute.

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Movie Review TOWER a plush, high-profile Ma

As a moviegoer, you have to suspend your state of disbelief and accept, maybe even go along with, whatever is on the movie screen. That's a given. "Make believe" is the name of the game, right? After all, horror films ask that you believe it's possible for hockeymasked madmen to be virtually indestructible. Science fiction films ask you to believe life on other planets resemble E.T. and Mr. Spock. Romantic comedies would have you believe the lunatic ravings of a man in love is acceptable as charming courtship. Now comes "Tower Heist," a madcap caper movie that would like for you to believe in an openly visible \$44 million dollar heist from a Manhattan highrise in full-view of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade in progress. After all, why not?

The farfetched premise of "Tower Heist" is right up director Brett Ratner's alley. Ratner seems to make only over-the-top high octane films like the Rush Hour pictures, the Hannibal Lector prequel "Red Dragon" (2002) and "X-Men: The Last Stand" (2006). That's his bag. In fact, I once read an interview where he said his goal as a movie director was to "make cool movies." Mind you, a "cool movie" and a "great movie" are usually two different things. That's not to say a "cool movie" will be any good either.

"Tower Heist" opens with the ever-reliable Josh Kovacs (Ben Stiller) overseeing the daily routines of his staff at

a plush, high-profile Manhattan apartment building. The building, known simply as "The Tower," is home to Wall Street billionaire Arthur Shaw (Alan Alda) who has made a career in smart investments and growing new finances. Shaw sees Josh as a trustworthy go-to guy and it's obvious both men have a mutual appreciation of each other. On some level, Josh even deeply admires Shaw.

One day Josh discovers what appears to be Shaw's kidnapping and alerts authorities. It turns out that Shaw was attempting to flee the city before he's raided by the feds. The Wall Street tycoon is implicated in a Ponzi scheme, and is suspected of stealing over \$2 billion from investors. To make matters worse, Shaw has also taken The Tower staff's pensions and life savings on the promise of increased returns. Now everyone's money is gone and Shaw is under house arrest.

Josh assumes responsibility for the staff's loss. He's the one who convinced his staff to trust Shaw and to invest with him. After a failed suicide attempt by one of his staffers, Josh and a few staff members confront Shaw. They are all fired and forbidden to set foot in The Tower ever again.

While having a few flirtatious drinks with FBI agent Claire Denham (Tea Leoni), who is investigating Shaw, Josh learns that Shaw has over \$20 million in cash hidden in a safe in his apartment. Josh quickly deduces where it would be hidden and concocts a plan to coerce Shaw out of his apartment (which is a challenge, since Shaw is under house arrest

and can't go anywhere), break into the safe, steal the \$20 million, and return to the jilted Tower employees their hard-earned money. Robin Hood, anyone?

By Mass Communication Spc. 1st Class Ty Bjornson

PG-13

104 min.

To do this job, Josh enlists the aid of streetwise Slide (Eddie Murphy) for his expertise on how to successful complete such an astounding task, and hires a few others to help carry it out.

Now, did I say steal \$20 million? Didn't I say earlier in this review the actual heist was for \$44 million? There may be a plot twist or two for viewers to discover on their own. For instance, why would this heist be visible during a Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade? Well, I wouldn't dream of revealing those details here.

As Slide, Eddie Murphy is back to the comedic form that made him a superstar in the '80s. He's fun to watch as he channels his "Trading Places" (1983) character Billy Ray Valentine into his new role and stealing every scene he's in. The supporting cast is fun and likeable as they set out the do the unlikely. It's also interesting to see Matthew Broderick in the picture as the paranoid Wall Street burnout who joins the team to pull off the caper. This isn't the first heist Broderick has been involved with – see "Family Business" (1990).

Watching this movie unfold is ludicrous, but it's fun. Not a ton of fun, but just enough to keep you involved. I wish there were more to "Tower Heist," but it is enough for satisfactory entertainment. After all, it is the concept of make believe that keeps us all going back to the movies. Let's not forget to





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 	Dream House	The Muppets	Happy Feet 2	What's Your	Twilight: Breaking	Killer Elite	Tower Heist
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Call the movie hotline at 4880 or see the MWR GTMO Facebook page for more information.

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